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TELEGRAM

August 02, 2004

To: No Action Addressee  
Action: Unknown  
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 2566 - UNKNOWN)  
TAGS: PREL  
Captions: None  
Subject: IRAQI PRIME MINISTER ALLAWI VISITS UAE  
Ref: None

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 02566

SIPDIS  
CXABU:  
ACTION: POL  
INFO: P/M RSO ECON AMB DCM

DISSEMINATION: POL  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: CDA:RALBRIGHT  
DRAFTED: POL:SRADDANT  
CLEARED: ECON:OJOHN

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INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 ABU DHABI 002566

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/FO, NEA/NGA AND NEA/ARP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/01/14  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTERR](#) [IZ](#) [TC](#)  
SUBJECT: Iraqi Prime Minister Allawi Visits UAE

Classified by Charge d'Affaires Richard A. Albright,  
reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

REF: BERLIN 2597

11. (C) SUMMARY: In his July 29-31 visit to Abu Dhabi, Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi discussed bilateral relations and the latest developments in Iraq with Shaykh Hamdan bin Zayed (HbZ), Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. Allawi discussed police training and military cooperation with Abu Dhabi Deputy Crown Prince and Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Lt. Gen. Shaykh Mohammad bin Zayed (MbZ). Allawi met separately July 29 with German National Security Advisor Bernd Muetzelburg, who flew in to discuss ongoing German UAE police training, possible military training, and invite Allawi to visit Berlin. END SUMMARY.

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Bilateral Talks  
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¶2. (C) Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi arrived in Abu Dhabi on Thursday for talks with senior UAE officials on the latest developments in Iraq, and to discuss UAE police and military assistance. Accompanying the prime minister were Iraqi Planning and Development Minister Mahdi Al Hafez, Oil Minister Samer Al Ghabban, Defense Minister Hazem Al Sha'lan, Communications Minister Mohammed Al Hakim, Transportation Minister Luay Al Ars, and Governor of Iraqi Central Bank Senan Al Shabibi.

¶3. (C) According to the Iraqi Embassy Charge, Kussay Mahdi Salih (who attended only the HbZ meeting and proved remarkably uninformed about the substance of the visit), Allawi briefed HbZ on developments in Iraq and expressed his concerns about the continuing problem of infiltration from Iran and Syria. Allawi did not make any specific requests to Hamdan for assistance and there were no signed agreements. HbZ conveyed the UAEG's eagerness to support Iraq's efforts to regain stability and security.

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Military Cooperation Discussion with MbZ  
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¶4. (C) Abu Dhabi Deputy Crown Prince and Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Lt. Gen. Shaykh Mohammad bin Zayed (MbZ) hosted Allawi and some of his delegation for lunch on July 30. Other UAE officials in attendance included: Shaykh Tahnoun bin Mohammad, the Abu Dhabi Ruler's Representative in the Eastern Region and Deputy Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council; Shaykh Surour bin Mohammad, Chamberlain of the Presidential Court; and Shaykh Abdullah bin Zayed, Minister of Information and Culture (AbZ). Allawi and MbZ had met several times prior to this visit, but this was their first meeting in Allawi's capacity as Iraqi Prime Minister. In advance of the lunch, AbZ told the Charge that Allawi was very focused on getting military support from Arab and Islamic countries. He did not ask for troops from the UAE, but welcomed a range of other support in terms of military vehicles, equipment, training and intelligence cooperation. AbZ said that the UAEG wanted to be responsive. MbZ Advisor Yousuf Al Otaiba told Poloff that the UAE's principal role in relation to the UAE/German police training was to bear the expenses. He indicated that that the UAEG was open to providing more assistance to Iraq, possibly in conjunction with the Germans, once the Iraqis determine what is needed.

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Allawi on Syria and Iran  
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¶5. (C) AbZ described Allawi as pleased overall with his visit to Syria, but said he was still quite concerned about incursions of terrorists. Allawi said he impressed on Syrian President Bashar in a one-on-one session that if the Arabs don't support stability in Iraq, the door would be left open for Iran to play a bigger role in Iraq. AbZ said that Allawi had characterized his conversation with Bashar as being much better one-on-one than with the old guard present. AbZ told the Charge that Allawi was most concerned about Iran and echoed the statement of the Iraqi Defense Minister a few weeks ago, to the effect that Iran would remain Iraq's principal adversary. Allawi also told AbZ that concerns about Iranian influence over some of the proposed participants to the National Conference had played a role in the

decision to delay it by two weeks.

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Crescent Petroleum  
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¶16. (C) The Iraqi Charge informed us that he had been instructed by Allawi's chief of staff in advance of their arrival to include the Pakistani managing director of Sharjah-based Crescent Petroleum, Ahsam Ullah Khan, in the Iraqi delegation. When UAE protocol initially balked at giving him an airport pass, Khan worked through Shaykh Mohammed's staff to obtain access and subsequently attended several of the meetings and accompanied Allawi on a helicopter tour of Dubai. (Comment: Crescent Petroleum is well connected to MbZ and is seeking to advance a proposal to import Iranian gas to the UAE. It is unclear whether Allawi knew Khan or whether Khan had used his influence with MbZ to get access.)

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Iraqi Business Council  
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¶17. (U) On Friday, Allawi addressed the Iraqi Business Council in the UAE and approved holding a conference of expatriate Iraqi business councils in Abu Dhabi. Talib Khan (Iraqi citizen, no relation to Khan in paragraph 6), chairman of the UAE council, said the conference will bring together Iraqi businessmen and potential investors from Arab and other countries to support a variety of business and reconstruction projects. Khan expects the conference to be held in December or January.

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Joint UAE-German Training  
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¶18. (C) The German Embassy confirmed that Allawi met with German National Security Advisor Bernd Muetzelburg July 29 to discuss police training, military cooperation, and debt relief (see reftel). The German DCM told Econchief that it was a good introductory meeting for the Germans and Allawi. He said that the Germans discussed the police training program with the UAEG and the Iraqis. A German experts delegation is scheduled to arrive next week to discuss details of the training with the UAEG. Training is scheduled to resume in September. Muetzelburg also explored military cooperation and training opportunities, including logistical, equipment, and EOD training for Iraqi security forces. The DCM said the discussions are in the initial stages, and there is no timing yet on providing this kind of assistance. NATO's participation (or lack thereof) in Iraq would limit some of Germany's options, but Germany is interested in providing assistance where it can.

¶19. (C) On debt relief, Muetzelburg expressed Germany's general willingness to provide relief in the context of the Paris Club. The one qualifier would be if the German Government would need to reimburse German creditors.

¶10. (C) We understand from the British that Muetzelburg conveyed an invitation to Allawi to visit Germany and discussed the timing of such a visit. He may also have conveyed a French invite to Allawi.

¶11. (C) Separately, we understand that Muetzelburg met with Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed to discuss follow up on the recent visits of each to Germany. With MbZ, we understand that they discussed ideas for how they might work together to provide military training and technical assistance to Iraq.

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COMMENT  
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¶12. (C) While Allawi's visit was well publicized with the usual arrival, departure and luncheon photos, there were no public statements and the usually bland media reports carried zero substance. We understand from a prominent Iraqi businessman that Allawi was pleased with his visit and "obtained everything he asked for." The Emiratis have financed the transfer of Jordanian APVs and are providing trucks and other vehicles. They are prepared to provide additional military equipment and training, possibly in conjunction with the Germans, but are apparently waiting for more specific requests from Iraq. For their part, the Germans have been unusually closed lipped, with the German DCM here telling his EU colleagues that he had been instructed not to share any information on Muetzelburg's visit.

ALBRIGHT